DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY F Schmelzer DATE 7/2/85
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
REASON(S)
E. O. 12356 EXEMPTIONS MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

R (12) FILE 11-15 ✓

Q & A FOR MRS. H. BENSON'S AWAC TESTIMONY — September 15, 1977

SUBJECT: F-15s for Saudi Arabia

QUESTION: What is the Administration's current policy regarding the sale of F-15s to Saudi Arabia?

ANSWER: The U.S. commitment to help Saudi Arabia in its legitimate defense needs is longstanding. DOD's 1974 comprehensive survey of Saudi defense requirements recommended the sale of an advanced fighter aircraft to replace the current inventory of British Lightnings whose useful flying life will end in the early 1980s. The Ford Administration agreed to sell the Saudis an advanced fighter; the Saudis, after a thorough study of the various alternatives. chose the F-15. After careful review of this question, this Administration agrees with the judgment that Saudi Arabia has a legitimate need for an advanced fighter aircraft. We will proceed in this matter at the appropriate time in close consultation with the Congress. (FYI: no decision has been made when Congressional approval will be sought. END FYI.)

NEA/ARP:JRCountryman:rgh
9/15/77 x-20279

Clearance:
NEA/ARP:JWTwinam